isson that it is in township No. seven, and range No. nine east; and
and in this way it is easy to designate the exact position of any
place in the state. These townships and ranges, with their proper
numbers, are shown by the little squares on the accompanying map.
Each township is subdivided into 36 sections, one mile square, con-
taining 640 acres of land. These are again divided into quarters
(160 acres each) and designated the north-east quarter, north-west
quarter, &c.; an "eighty" is an east or west half of a quarter sec-
tion, and a "forty" is a quarter of a quarter; these divisions con-
taining eighty acres, and forty acres respectively. It will be ob-
erved that all lines of the government survey run either north and
south, or east and west. This very simple, easily understood and
perfect system of surveying the land enables the land department of
the government to show to purchasers the topographical features of
each tract in detail, what lakes, rivers, springs, marshes, prairies,
woodlands, &c., occur upon or near it. Hence the maps of the state
may be relied upon as affording more exact details of the course of
the rivers, and other geographical features, than can be expected in
countries where no such surveys have been made.

LANDS.

The title of all land is derived from the general government of the
United States; but large grants have been made to the state of
Wisconsin, for the support of common schools, of normal schools, of
a University, of an Agricultural college, and for the drainage of
swamps. The lands still in the hands of the United States, may be
purchased for cash, at one dollar and a quarter an acre, or may be
entered without cost (except a small fee) under the homestead law.
Offices for the entry of government land are open at Menasha, Stev-
ens' Point, La Crosse, Eau Claire, Falls of the St. Croix, and at
Bayfield. Lands belonging to the state may be purchased at Madi-
son, at prices varying from three-fourths of a dollar to two and a half
dollars an acre; usually one-fourth only of the purchase money is
required to be paid in hand, the remainder on a long credit, with in-
terest at seven per centum per annum.

THE HOMESTEAD LAW.

By this very liberal act of the congress of the United States,
the unsold public lands are offered, almost without price to any citi-
izen, or person who has declared his intention to become a citizen.
The payment of ten dollars, and a small fee to the register and re-
ceiver of the land office, where the entry is made, secures to any
single person twenty-one years of age, or the head of a family, 160